



5-Stand Sporting Clays Returns to Henges

The Jay Henges Shooting Range is readying for its 5-Stand Sporting Clays Course to return April 1, 2015. Beginning on that date, this shotgun shooting game will be held every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. as long as light allows.

5-Stand Sporting Clays is a challenging clay target game designed to closely simulate actual hunting conditions in a small amount of space, with very little walking. On a 5-stand course, shooters are presented with a wide variety of targets that duplicate the path of bounding rabbits and gamebirds, including flushing, crossing, incoming, outgoing, and other angling shots.

Setup

We use one of our trap fields for the 5-stand course.

- 5 “stands” or stations to shoot from
- 6-8 automatic traps
- Squads of five shooters each move from stand to stand with a predetermined menu of 25 target rounds
- Staff member on-hand to explain the course, throw the targets, and ensure comfort and safety
- Cost is still \$3 per round

Guns and Ammunition

Shooters can use any gauge shotgun capable of shooting two shots, but by far, 12- and 20- gauges are most popular. Some shooters prefer a double barrel gun, with one choke for “skeet”, and the other modified for longer targets. A good all-around choke of “improved cylinder” is typically successful. Popular shot sizes are #7-1/2 and #8 in lead and #6 and #7 in steel.

Sequence

Each stand has a menu card that lets the shooter know the sequence and location of clay birds. No two stations are alike; target angles, locations, and speed at individual stations may be changed from time to time, making the game much more fun and challenging.

5-tand Sporting Clays is by no means an exclusively competitive game. Most shooters participate just for the fun of it and to get in some excellent practice for hunting seasons. Everyone has a great time meeting many new individuals and enjoying the outdoors. Mark your calendars to come on out and give 5-Stand a try.



by TONY L. LEGG, outdoor education center supervisor

Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • mdc.mo.gov/node/299



From the east/St. Louis
I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway.

From the west/Eureka
I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

HOURS:

May 1–August 31

Wednesday: 1–7:30 p.m.

Thursday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

September 1–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email henges.range@mdc.mo.gov with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

*Conservation makes
Missouri a great place
to hunt and fish.*

Women's Beginning Handgun

March 5 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Women only, ages 16 and up)

This women's program will include handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. First attend a classroom session and then move to the range for a live-fire session. Although all equipment and ammunition will be provided free, you may bring your own handgun and ammunition to the live-fire session. An adult must accompany anyone under age 18. (Reservations begin February 5.)

Trigger Time – Advanced Handgun

March 14 • Saturday • 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 18 and up)

Trigger Time is "hands-on" personal instruction designed to make you a better marksman. There is no classroom time, just expert one-on-one instruction from one of our highly qualified staff. Participants are required to provide their own handguns and ammunition, at least 100 rounds. This program is for experienced handgun shooters and not appropriate for beginners or novices. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin February 14.)

Beginners Wild Turkey Hunting Clinic

March 21 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

(Ages 6 and up)

Missouri offers some of the best turkey hunting in the nation. This is your chance to learn more about this unique opportunity. This beginner clinic will cover biology and behavior, natural history, management, calls and calling, turkey hunting tactics, safety and ethics, and field care. (Reservations begin February 21.)

Youth Wild Turkey Calling Clinic

March 24 • Tuesday • 6 – 8 p.m.

(Ages 6 - 15)

Come discover how exciting turkey calling can be at this informative workshop. We will discuss calling tips and techniques for beginners as well as advanced instruction. We will discuss how to apply calling in real turkey hunting situations, and explore different scenarios that hunters often encounter. Learn useful turkey calling and hunting tips at this information packed seminar! (Reservations begin February 24.)

Beginning Youth .22 Caliber Rifle Shooting

March 28 • Saturday • 8 – 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 9 – 15)

Interested young people who have no experience shooting .22 rifles are invited to participate in this session on safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 caliber rimfire rifles in a controlled safe environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment are provided. (Reservations begin February 28.)

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/270

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center is closed for a total renovation into an expanded, state-of-the-art shooting range featuring more shooting stations and classroom facilities. The project is part of the Department's ongoing commitment to help Missourians improve their outdoor skills and discover nature.

For more information please visit our web site at mdc.mo.gov

Youth and Women Quail Clinic and Hunt

March 12 • Thursday • 6 – 8 p.m.

March 14 • Saturday • 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

(Youth ages 11-15, women 11 and up)

Join our experts and learn about the bobwhite quail and what it takes to hunt these small, elusive birds. The clinic is on Thursday, located at the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classroom where you will learn about habitat, safety, clothing, firearms, chokes, and how to hunt quail. Saturday, we will head to the field at Wilnor Hunt Club for an actual hunt. Women's hunt will be 8-11 a.m. and youth 12-3 p.m. All hunters must attend the clinic and be Hunter Ed certified. Hunters must have attended the pheasant clinic and hunt held through Busch Range. The quail clinic and hunt is for those who have not participated in this hunt in the past. Ages 11 - 15 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin February 12.)



Beginning Atlatl

March 21 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – noon
(Ages 11 and up)

Join our experts and learn the art of Atlatl. The atlatl predates the bow and arrow and in 2010 became a legal method of harvesting a deer in Missouri. An atlatl is an 18-inch wooden shaft used to throw a 4 to 6-foot-long, spear-like projectile known as a dart. Meet in the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classroom. (Reservations begin February 23.)

Atlatl The atlatl predates the bow and arrow and in 2010 became a legal method of harvesting deer in MO. It is used to throw a 4 to 6 foot-long, spear-like projectile known as a dart. The atlatl is a wooden shaft approximately a foot-and-a-half long with a socket or knock at the rear to engage the dart. The dart is placed along the shaft with its back end resting in the socket or knock. The hunter grips the atlatl near its front end and performs a forward throw using the upper arm and wrist. The flipping motion of the atlatl creates angular momentum that propels the dart with greater speed and power than can be achieved with the arm alone.



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to register Monday through Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Turkey Hunting 101

March 26 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.
(Ages 11 – 15)

New to turkey hunting, or want to learn more about hunting these large, elusive birds? Join our experts as they teach safety, techniques, clothing, firearms, ammunition, calling, and what it takes to hunt turkeys. Meet in the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classroom. (Reservations begin February 26.)



Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance. Enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through oak-hickory forest.

HOURS:

Building: Tuesday–Saturday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. DST

8 a.m.–6 p.m. CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Volunteer Milestones

Claire Anderson	200 hours
Larry Burtelow	2000 hours
Carl Combs	2500 hours
Elizabeth Frick	100 hours
Barbara Herbst	2000 hours
Wayne Schiefelbein	300 hours
Jeff Wolf	1500 hours



Lake Sturgeon: Our Living Dinosaurs

Travis Moore, fisheries management biologist
March 10 • Tuesday • 6:30 p.m.
(All ages)

The endangered lake sturgeon, Missouri's second largest fish, is making a comeback in Missouri. Travis Moore, fisheries management biologist, will talk about the difference among Missouri's three species of sturgeon and some of the other well-known sturgeon species from around the world. Learn how we are bringing the lake sturgeon back to the state and the interesting things we've learned since we first started stocking them in the mid-1980s.

Plan to attend this presentation on lake sturgeon and learn how Missouri's second largest fish is making a pretty big splash in the Show-Me State. (Reservations required.)

Spiders: Man's Best Friend!

March 11 • Wednesday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 4 – 7)

They're creepy! They're crawly! They're hairy! They're sneaky! And they are a very important part of our world. Come to Powder Valley to learn why spiders are so important to us. Explore the interesting world of spiders and their quirky ways, and see some examples of them – both living and preserved. We will make a craft spider on its web to take home, too. (Reservations begin February 25.)

Feathery Friends

March 12 • Thursday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 3 – 6)

It's almost springtime, and many of our birds are making their way back from their winter homes. Let's celebrate all birds by learning about their special traits. We'll discuss what makes a bird a bird, make some binoculars, and go on a birding hike to spot them in the wild. (Reservations begin February 26.)

Discovery Tables: State Symbols

March 14 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(Any age)

Our discovery tables help Boy Scouts earn portions of their badges relating to nature and wildlife. March's self-led program will offer information on many of our state symbols, such as the state bird, the state tree, and the state mineral. Wolves can work on "Your Flag" (Achievement 2d), and Bears can work on "What Makes America Special?" (Achievement 3e). Discovery tables are also open to the general public. Reservations are not necessary.

Conservation Day Camp helps kids discover nature.

Conservation Day Camp is coming in June. Applications are due in April. Be sure to check the April issue of Conservation Connections for camp details and application form.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271

Homeschool: It's Not Easy Being Green!

March 17 • Tuesday • 10 a.m. – noon
(Ages 7 – 12)

Herps walk, crawl, jump, slither, and creep! So what are herps? Students will become Junior Herpetologists as they explore characteristics, adaptations, and unique facts through fun, interactive activities. We will meet some herps up close and personal indoors and then head out to search for them in their native habitats. (Reservations begin March 3.)

Natives for Novices: A Native Garden Design Workshop

March 21 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – noon
(Adults and Families, ages 12 and up)

Would you like to encourage wildlife in your yard? Or maybe you would rather discourage it! Learn how to consider our native flora and fauna as you landscape. Explore some of the many choices Missourians have in the way of native trees, shrubs, and flowering plants, as well as water features and other structures. Also find out which plants are more deer-resistant. (Reservations begin March 7.)

Let's Talk Turkey

March 24 • Tuesday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.
(Ages 6 and up)

From almost zero to half a million! The road to recovery for Missouri turkeys was a long and tough journey. As you walk in the woods today you may see turkey tracks or scat, but it wasn't always that way. Let's celebrate the return of the wild turkey while learning more about these interesting and unique birds. Then we'll go outside and look for turkeys or their sign. (Reservations begin February 10.)

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • mdc.mo.gov/node/10254



From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-1309** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Outdoor Explorer: Archery

March 18 • Wednesday • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
(Ages 9 – 13)

An introduction to the bow and arrow is only the beginning. Start the morning off discovering how mammal identification and tracking are essential for archers. Archery teaches you discipline, concentration and resilience. Not to mention, it's a great sport either in or outdoors. Once you familiarize yourself with the bow and can shoot the arrow, an archery skills challenge will begin. Are you in? This program meets at the Forest Park Hatchery and Educational Fishing Lakes in Forest Park. Participants should bring a sack lunch, water bottle and dress to be outdoors for the day. (Reservations begin February 2.)

Outdoor Explorer: Fishing

March 19 • Thursday • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
(Ages 9 – 13)

Let's go fishing! It's all about fishing today: tying a knot, baiting a hook, casting a line and fish identification. We'll spend the morning learning the particulars. After lunch we will go fishing and see which fish are biting best. Meet at the Forest Park Hatchery and Educational Fishing Lakes in Forest Park. Bring a sack lunch, water bottle and dress to be outdoors for the day. (Reservations begin February 2.)

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • mdc.mo.gov/node/298



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

HOURS:

Building: Wednesday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

It's That "Tine" of Year!

March 1 • Sunday • noon – 3 p.m. (Experienced), 1 – 4 p.m. (Beginner) *(Ages 8 and up)*

It's shed season! Join us for the fourth annual shed hunt at Columbia Bottom to learn about the highly sought after, elusive antler. Discover what it is, how they grow, their uses and, most importantly, how to find them as they fade into the landscape. This "tine" only comes around once a year, so don't miss it. Both sessions start at the Visitor Center. (Reservations begin February 13.)

Wetlands by Moonlight

March 6 • Friday • 7 – 8:30 p.m.

(Ages 7 and up)

The wetlands at Columbia Bottom are a great example of how the Missouri Department of Conservation works to sustain healthy forests, fish, and wildlife. With migration at its peak, the sights and sounds of visiting waterfowl mingle with those of resident amphibians. Experience our favorite chorus as we walk by the light of the full moon. Dress for the weather and wear shoes or boots that can get muddy. Meet at the Visitor Center to car pool to the walk site. (Reservations run February 18 thru March 4.)



Amphibian Night Hike

March 13 • Friday • 7 – 8:30 p.m.

(All ages)

Bring your flashlight and dress for the weather as we explore the Columbia Bottom wetlands to discover the mysteries of amphibian life. Meet at the Visitor Center to learn about their unique life cycle before heading outside to identify species by listening for their calls. (Reservations begin February 27.)

7th Annual Confluence Trash Bash!

March 21 • Saturday • 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(Most ages)

Have fun while serving nature and people at Confluence Trash Bash! Together, with a host of partners, we'll clean-up areas around the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. For more information and registration go to <http://greenwaynetwork.org> Need transportation to the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge? Contact Colleen Scott by Monday, March 9, at 314-877-6014, ext. 4241. Buses will be provided on a first come, first served basis.

Budding Photographers

March 24 • Tuesday • 10 a.m. – noon

(Ages 18 and younger)

Spring has sprung and Mother Nature is gearing up to put on a beautiful show for us to capture with our cameras! Meet at the Visitor Center to go over some beginner tips and tricks of photography. Then we'll venture out on the area to witness Mother Nature's finest work. Bring any camera you like and dress for the weather. (Reservations begin March 11.)

Dresser Island Pelican Walk

March 28 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(10 and up)

Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and fish and gives us the opportunity to enrich our quality of life as we discover nature. Dresser Island, on the Mississippi River, is just the place to do that. Walk with us to view spring migrants such as pelicans, ducks, eagles, and trumpeter swans. Dress for the weather. Wear shoes that can get muddy. We will walk up to 4 miles. Bring a water bottle and snack. Viewing scopes will be provided. Bring binoculars and field guides if you like. (Reservations run March 11 thru 25.)

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/300



The Nature Journaling Group: Up Close and Personal with Ducks and Other Birds

March 4 • Wednesday • 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
(Adults)

Practice doodling, sketching, and learn about spring duck migration. Each session of Nature Journaling focuses on different themes and different skills. This month, get up close and personal with mounted ducks and other birds while learning techniques to enhance your observation skills. Experience a new way to connect with the natural world and put your skills to practice observing animals at the lakes. (Reservations begin February 18.)

It's Purple Martin Time

March 14 • Saturday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.
(Ages 14 and up)

Are you ready to welcome purple martins back from their annual winter migration to South America? Learn how you can help conserve these beautiful insect-eating and cavity-dwelling swallows that are native to Missouri. We will discuss establishing and managing a colony of purple martins in your own backyard. Weather permitting, we will view the housing that a colony of purple martins uses each year at the Busch Visitor's Center. (Reservations begin February 27.)

Night Hike: Timberdoodles and Spring Peepers

March 14 • Saturday • 5:45 – 9:15 p.m.
(Adults)

Experience the sounds of a late winter evening, hiking, listening, and watching for timberdoodles (American woodcocks) performing their courtship displays. This "nature show" belongs to one of the strangest members of the bird world. We also hope for spring peepers, a small but loud frog performing courtship displays from small woodland ponds. Effort = Easy to Moderate for hiking 3.2 miles on a mostly flat gravel path. (Reservations begin February 27.)



Night Hike: Timberdoodles and Spring Peepers

March 21 • Saturday • 5:45 – 9:15 p.m.
(All Ages)

Experience the sounds of a late winter evening, hiking, listening, and watching for timberdoodles (American woodcocks) performing their courtship displays. This "nature show" belongs to one of the strangest members of the bird world. We also hope for spring peepers, a small but loud frog performing courtship displays from small woodland ponds. Effort = Easy to Moderate for hiking 3.2 miles on a mostly flat gravel path (Reservations begin March 6.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Area: Daily: 4 a.m.–10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Busy as a Beaver

March 31 • Tuesday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.
(Ages 6 – 12)

Beaver seem to never stop cutting down trees and building all kinds of neat stuff. They are the reason that St. Louis was established at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers 250 years ago. But by 100 years ago, there were almost no beaver left in Missouri because of over-trapping. Learn about these interesting animals and conservation efforts that reestablished them in our state. (Reservations begin March 17.)

Volunteer Milestones

Scott Barteau

100 hrs.

Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Native Plants for Homeowners Workshop

March 7 • Saturday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.
(Adults)

Naturally resilient native grasses, sedges, flowers, shrubs, vines, and trees are great for home landscaping. In this workshop, you will learn how to solve common gardening problems and attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and songbirds. Learn landscape design ideas, plant sources, and techniques to identify and propagate home native plants. We'll even get you started with some seedlings to take home in time for spring planting. Please dress for the weather to visit the outdoor native gardens. (Reservations begin February 20.)

Busy as a Beaver

March 17 • Tuesday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.
(Ages 6 – 12)

Beaver seem to never stop cutting down trees and building all kinds of neat stuff. They are the reason that St. Louis was established at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers 250 years ago. But by 100 years ago, there were almost no beaver left in Missouri because of over-trapping. Learn about these interesting animals and conservation efforts that reestablished them in our state. (Reservations begin March 3.)



Volunteer Milestones

Julianne Epplin

100 hrs.



Missouri's Native Pollinators

March 22 • Sunday • 2 – 3:30 p.m.
(Families)

Learn about Missouri's native pollinators, their importance to the ecosystem and our daily lives. Construct bee boxes (homes for native bees where they can lay eggs) and discuss the benefits of attracting native bees and pollinators to your backyard garden. (Reservations begin March 9.)

Springtime at Young Conservation Area

March 28 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – noon
(Ages 10 and up)

Go for an early spring hike in the forests and fields along the 2.5 mile Taconic Loop Trail and search for wildflowers, mushrooms, and other signs of the season. Young Conservation Area is in Jefferson County on Route FF. Effort = Moderate for hiking on natural surface with some hills. (Reservations begin March 13.)